



Part 3: The Rewards of Heaven

Rejoice in that day, leap for joy, because great is your **reward** in heaven. Luke 6:23

For the Son of Man is going to come in his Father's glory with his angels, and then he will **reward** each person according to what he has done. Matt. 16:27

...the Lord will **reward** everyone for whatever good he does... Eph. 6:8

Common questions about heavenly rewards:

1. Doesn't a reward for **works** contradict the idea of **grace**?

- I am saved by _____ for _____
For it is by **grace** you have been saved, through faith --and this not from yourselves, it is the **gift** of God-- **not by works**, so that no one can boast. For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus **to do good works**, which God prepared in advance for us to do. Eph. 2:8-10

- Even these rewards are examples of God's _____!
It's not that God _____ me more, but that He _____ my faithfulness!

- It's not just about actions; it's about the _____.
If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing. 1 Cor. 13:3 (See 1 Cor. 3:12-15, 1 Cor. 4:5; Luke 10:41,42)

2. What's the point of rewards if I'm going to heaven anyway?

- **Encouragement:** _____ I do for God is ever overlooked
...you will be **repaid** at the resurrection of the righteous. Luke 14:14
"repaid" (Greek *apodidomai*): _____

- **Direction:** I'm here on earth for a _____ (See Eph. 2:10)

- **Motivation:** My perseverance will be _____
*I press on toward the goal to win the **prize** for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.* Phil. 3:14

3. What will I be rewarded **for**?

- No _____ is unnoticed
*Blessed are you when men hate you, when they exclude you and insult you and reject your name as evil, because of the Son of Man. Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, because **great is your reward** in heaven.* Luke 6:22-23

*Our light and momentary troubles **are achieving for us** an eternal glory that far outweighs them all.* 2 Cor. 4:17

*Anyone who gives you a cup of water in my name because you belong to Christ will not lose his **reward**.* Mark 9:41

When you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. Matt. 6:3,4

Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age. 6:18,19

- No _____ is ignored
*Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a **reward**.* Col. 3:22-23

- No _____ is unrewarded
Everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or land for my sake will receive a hundred times as much and will inherit eternal life. Matt. 19:29

*But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything for it. Then your **reward** will be great...* Luke 6:35

You can live a life of *eternal* _____

*For we must all appear before the **judgment seat** (Greek *bema*) of Christ, that each of us will receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, good or bad...* 2 Cor. 5:10

Don't just live for _____; live for _____

His master replied, "Well done, good and faithful servant!" Matt. 25:21

Resources

Randy Alcorn, *Heaven*

W. A. Criswell and Paige Patterson, *Heaven*

Bruce Wilkinson, *A Life God Rewards* (Good overview of rewards; I disagree with some con-

Daily Meditations

Brief daily Bible studies and questions for reflection on today's topic!

This week's memory verse:

The Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let him who hears say, "Come!" Whoever is thirsty, let him come; and whoever wishes, let him take the free gift of the water of life. Rev. 22:17

Monday

Look at the notes from this past weekend. Which questions about heaven have you had?

Did any of the answers surprise you?

What do you wish you knew about heaven?

How do the Bible's descriptions of the new heaven and the new earth inspire you to live for Christ here and now? How do these ideas help you grow closer to the Lord?

How do they help you reach out to others?

Ask God to help you think accurately and inspirationally of the new heaven and the new earth that awaits!

Tuesday

Read Revelation 21. Rev. 21:2 describes the Holy City--the "New Jerusalem"-- as a beautifully dressed bride. With what precious jewels and metals is the bride adorned, according to verses 11 & 18-21?

Along with this physical beauty, what promise in verse 4 makes heaven a place to long for?

In verse 4, what do you think the "old order" is? Read verse 5 and then 2 Corinthians 5:17 and describe what Christ has done for us.

Read verse 22. Why is there no need for a temple in the Holy City? And why is there no need for a sun or moon?

It's exciting to imagine what God has prepared for us! Thank God for these glimpses of Heaven and for the joy of knowing that as believers we will be with Him forever!

Wednesday

Read Rev. 22. What is our Lord's promise to us in verses 7, 12, and 20?

What characteristics and names of God are found in verses 5, 13 & 16?

According to verse 17, who is invited to take the "free gift of the water of life"?

Read John 4:10-14. Describe the "living water" Jesus speaks of in these verses with the "river of the water of life" in Rev. 22:1.

Ask God for the opportunity to share God's gift of "living water" with someone you know. Live like He's coming soon!

Thursday

Read Isaiah 65:17-25. Like many prophecies in Isaiah, this passage seems to be about two things: a vision of an exciting future for the nation of Israel in this life, and a literal new heaven and new earth.

What surprises you about these descriptions of the new heaven and new earth?

What are you looking forward to about the place described in this passage?

This passage was originally written to Israelites who had seen their nation fall into ruin and were inspired these words to motivate them to live fully devoted lives here on earth. How can these words inspire you to live your life today?

Spend time in prayer today specifically thanking God for things you've learned about heaven and earth.

Friday

Read Isaiah 11:6-10. Some commentators believe this passage is referring to the thousand-year peace prophesied in the Bible and referred to as the "millennium", which takes place on the earth. Most believe it refers to the "new heaven and new earth" because of its parallels to Isaiah 65:17-25, which refers to the new heaven and earth. What surprises you about this description?

Read Luke 13:23-30. What surprises you about these descriptions of the new heaven and new earth?

You may have noticed that many of the passages about heaven refer to those left out of heaven. How do you think the Bible contains these warnings?

Why do you think Jesus told the falsely pious, self-satisfied religious leaders that they would be left out of heaven about who's "in" and who's "out" of heaven?

Why is this truth important for us to hear today?

Ask God to give you a heart of love and compassion for all those who need to hear about heaven and earth for opportunities to share.

Saturday

Finish any devotions you may have missed and polish up the memory verse. Please pray for the weekend-- that God would be glorified and people would be brought closer to Him! Thank God!